

II. RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Karp et al., U.S. Patent No. 6591,242 (hereinafter "Karp") in view of Harvey et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,519,568 (hereinafter "Harvey"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-21

Looking first at claim 1, the broadest pending claim, it is required that a first and second service operation be performed at a single well site, the invoice data of each service operation being inputted into a first computer located at a well site, and then a communication of the first and second invoice data from the first computer to a second computer using a wireless communication link. These elements are not disclosed in the Karp/Logan combination.

By its own definition, Karp discloses a system for tracking clients as they visit the locations of various recipients. Karp discloses that in operation, a caller/client places a call upon arrival at a respective call site. The information transmitted in that call includes, among other things, identity of the client, location of the client, whether the client is arriving or departing, and what tasks were performed. Karp, col. 4, ll. 18-37. Conversely, claim 1 of the present invention discloses a first and second service operation being performed by first and second contractors. Karp discloses no such system. The Karp system does not disclose two clients arriving at the same call site to perform two separate operations that are then transferred to the central location. Instead Karp discloses a single operation. The two clients pointed out by the Examiner, clients 110A-B of Karp, are at two distinct call sites, and are not performing two operations at the same call site. This void is not filled by Harvey, as Harvey does not disclose the transmission of multiple service operations from the same second computer.

Furthermore, claim 1 distinctly requires that both service operations be entered into the second computer and then transmitted to the first computer. Karp by its very definition requires a "biometric input device" to assure that the information transmitted from the call site is from a single identifiable client. The system of Karp would not allow for client 110A to transmit her data through client 110B's call-in device, as client 110A's biometric parameters would be different from that client 110B and would thus not be accepted by the central location. In the words of claim 1, Karp does not allow for a first and second service operation performed by first and second contractors to be transmitted over the same second computer. As described above, Harvey does not fill this void either.

With respect to claims 3 and independent claims 15 and 20, the only verification system disclosed in Karp is to verify the identity of the client caller. The Karp verification system cited by the Examiner does not involve accepting the data entered in to the Karp system; it only involves verifying the caller. In the system of claim 3, the invoice data is sent from the second computer to the first computer, and then the second computer displays a confirmation that the company has not objected to the invoice data. There is no such system in Karp. When the Karp client enters her service parameter or task code, there is no indication on the client call-in device that that the company accepted the task code. Thus, the verifications between the claimed invention and Karp is totally different. Again, Harvey does not disclose a system in which the data gathered at the Harvey wellsite that is transferred to the central computer is accepted by the host computer.

With respect to claims 6 and 16, process data accompanies the invoice data so as to provide support for the validity of the invoice data. Karp provides no such system. The

verification system of Karp deals only with user/client verification. Karp does not disclose a system in which the task code transmitted by the client is accompanied with data verifying that the task was completed. For instance, in the instant invention, one invoice could be for running tubing. Hook load data can be transmitted with the invoice providing physical evidence that tubing was actually run. Neither Karp nor Harvey disclose systems in which data is transferred to support an invoice transmitted from a second computer to a first computer. All that is transferred in Karp is an unsupported task code – the Karp central location has no means to verify that the task was completed other than the word of the client that sent the code.

Given the arguments in support of the patentability of independent claim 1, Applicant submits that because claim 1 is the broadest independent claim, the same arguments pertain to each of independent claims 15 and 20, and all claims dependent from claims 1, 15 and 20.

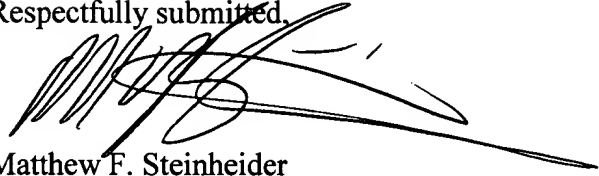
In view of the above, claims 1-21 are respectfully submitted as being clearly distinct and patentable over the art of record and therefore Applicants respectfully request their entry and allowance by the Examiner. Applicants believe the application will then be in position for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 713-787-1516, or by email at steinheidern@howrey.com with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

HOWREY
SIMON
ARNOLD
& WHITE LLP

Serial No.: 09/839,103
Applicant: Newman
Atty. Ref.: 13526.0028.NPUS00

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew F. Steinheider
Reg. No. 47,968
Attorney for Applicant

HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE,
LLP
750 Bering Drive
Houston, Texas 77057-2198
(713) 787-1400

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